

To: All Superintendents  
From: Peter McWalters, Commissioner  
Date: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Re: Enrollment of students from New Orleans

We are aware that several families from New Orleans have already resettled in Rhode Island. Many more families are expected to arrive today and tomorrow. It is anticipated that these families will be housed on or near the Navy base in Middletown.

In anticipation of the arrival of these families and in order to help make their transition to new school systems as smooth as possible, by Monday please provide my office with the following information:

1. Students from New Orleans and environs who have already been enrolled in your schools. Please send the names, addresses, school, and grade level of these students. (The Rhode Island Red Cross has asked RIDE to gather this information.)
2. In all likelihood, the students arriving here within the next few days will be enrolled in public schools in the district where they will be living or in adjacent districts. Some districts, however, have already informed RIDE of space availability. In the unlikely event that students will be enrolled in districts other than Middletown or Newport, please let me know what space you have available in your schools, by grade level.
3. Please let me know of any help that your district can offer, on a temporary, emergency basis, with school enrollment and placement activities. In particular, we may be in need of school psychologists or members of IEP teams who can help assess and support incoming students.

Please respond to Karen Lovett, by e-mail: [karen.lovett@ride.ri.gov](mailto:karen.lovett@ride.ri.gov).

You may direct questions to Elliot Krieger, at 222-8471.